AIDS vaccine by American Pharmaceuticals Company

1909. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the US Central Intelligence Agency, India is fast approaching dangerous levels of HIV infection with upto 25 million HIV positive cases more than any other country-projected for the year 2010;

(b) if so, whether an American Pharmaceuticals Company claimed to be in final state of testing an AIDS vaccine;

(c) whether a legislation to safeguard human rights of those infected by HIV/AIDS is being considered by Government following recommendations of International Policy-makers Conference; and

(d) if so, the concrete programme of action to tackle AIDS considered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) It is claimed in a recent report of the National Intelligence Council in the USA that "approximately 20-25 million Indians are likely to be infected (with HIV) by 2010".

(b) Yes, Sir. An American pharmaceutical company, Vaxgen has completed phase III clinical trials for the "AIDS VAX" vaccine, which is a gp 120 sub-unit HIV 1 sub-type B vaccine.The results are not perceived as encouraging, and the detailed analysis shows very limited success.

(c) An International Policy Makers Conference on HIV/AIDS was held at New Delhi on May 10-12-2002. One of the key issues discussed at the conference was the need for comprehensive legislative measures to combat HIV/AIDS and its impact in the society. A Delhi declaration adopted at the end of the conference pledged to "Strengthen legislative and regualtory systems and procedures" to fight the epidemic. As a follow up of the Delhi declaration a special legislative group was constituted at the time, to examine existing legislations and ways to develop a comprehensive legislation to safeguard the rights of the people living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable populations.

(d) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt, of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control

Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:—

* Preventive interventions for high risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
* Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntry counseling and testing services, information education and communication (IEC) and awareness building among adolescents and sensitization for the AIDS Vaccine Initiative.
* Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
* Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.
* Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and Programme management.

Mustard Oil

1910. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent research has revealed that the mustard oil has been found to be the most superior edible oil to all other cooking medium and is the cure-all for life-style illness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to carry out any special campaign to create awareness among the people in order to make them health conscious; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?